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Congress of the United States

Joint Committee on Printing

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TO HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

Public Law 100-202, which provides continuing appropriations for Fiscal Year 1988, contains a provision directly affecting Executive Branch printing activities. The provision, which can be found in Section 309 of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, mandates that, with a few exceptions, printing products and services procured from commercial sources must be obtained through the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO).

Enactment of this section was prompted by the recent change in the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) (see Federal Register Vol. 52, No. 54, pages 9036-9038, March 20, 1987) that would permit departments and agencies to circumvent GPO. The Joint Committee on Printing believes that such actions would have been both fiscally unsound and injurious to the free flow of information to the American people. Accordingly, this section was designed to maintain the status that existed prior to the issuance of the FAR change, and preserve GPO's central role in the production and dissemination of Federal information.

For your information, I have enclosed copies of the new statutory provision and the corresponding report language. I hope it will help you in developing and implementing an effective and efficient printing program for your agency. The Joint Committee is available to assist you and members of your staff in that effort.

Sincerely,

Frank Annunzio

Frank Annunzio
Chairman

Enclosure

NEW STATUTORY PROVISION

SEC. 309. (a) None of the funds appropriated for fiscal year 1988 by this Act or any other law may be obligated or expended by any entity of the executive branch for the procurement from commercial sources of any printing related to the production of Government publications (including forms), unless such procurement is by or through the Government Printing Office.

(b) Subsection (a) does not apply to (1) individual printing orders costing not more than \$1,000, if the work is not of a continuing or repetitive nature, (2) printing for the Central Intelligence Agency, the Defense Intelligence Agency, or the National Security Agency, or (3) printing from commercial sources that is specifically authorized by law or is of a kind that has not been routinely procured by or through the Government Printing Office.

(c) As used in this section, the term "printing" means the process of composition, platemaking, presswork, binding, and microform, and the end items of such processes.

ACCOMPANYING REPORT LANGUAGE

The conference agreement includes a provision which requires executive branch agencies who wish to procure printing services from commercial sources to do so through the Government Printing Office. Exceptions are provided for a number of printing practices and activities that for reasons of necessity, practicality, efficiency, or statutory authority have been, and should continue to be, performed other than through the Government Printing Office. The overall intent is to maintain the status that existed prior to the implementation of the recent change in the Federal Acquisition Regulation (see Federal Register Vol. 52, No. 54, pages 9036-9038, March 20, 1987). This provision revises a provision inserted by the Senate.